

HCS HB 827 -- PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

SPONSOR: DeGroot

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Utilities by a vote of 12 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Committee on Rules - Administrative Oversight by a vote of 13 to 0.

Currently, the Missouri Public Service Commission allocates the estimate expenses directly attributable to the regulation of utilities among each statutory group of utilities. This bill provides that if any group is allocated an amount of indirectly attributable expenses in excess of one and one-fourth times its directly attributable expenses, then the excess shall be reallocated among the other groups whose costs did not exceed one and one-fourth times their directly attributable expenses.

The bill also enables public utilities to defer the difference in assessment amounts and those amounts included in the utilities' rates for a recovery or refund during the subsequent rate proceeding.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill provides equity for telephone companies that currently pay for a disproportionate share of the Public Service Commission's regulatory expenses.

Testifying for the bill were Representative DeGroot; Ric Telthort, Missouri Telecommunications Industry Association; Richard Moore, Centurylink; and Craig Unruh, AT&T.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.